

**NAME: AAIDD TEXAS CHAPTER BOARD MEETING AND
50TH ANNUAL CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 23RD 2026

MEETING TIME: 10AM– 11AM NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

MEETING TIME: 11AM-12PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MEETING TIME: 12PM-2PM CONVENTION PLANNING

MEETING LOCATION: INTEGRAL CARE

NORTH LAMAR PROFESSIONAL BLDG.

5225 N. LAMAR, AUSTIN TX, 78751

MINUTES

	New Board Member Orientation	
	Call to Order/ Introductions– Ken Winston	Call to order - Welcome New Member Shelby Davenport
	National Overview / AAIDD	Ken Winston provided an overview of National AAIDD, its mission, and the relationship between National and state chapter.
	About AAIDD Texas Chapter	Ken Winston and Carey Amthor reviewed the history, purpose, governance structure, and key initiatives of the Chapter.
	Strategic Plan	Ken Winston and Carey Amthor reviewed the AAIDD Texas Chapter Strategic Plan, including current priorities and alignment with Chapter goals.
	Financial Report / Funding Sources	Connie Cisneros (not present) manages funding sources, financial processes, and overall fiscal responsibility of the Chapter
	Membership	Amber Jones provided an overview of membership recruitment, engagement, and retention strategies. New Membership Committee Members: Dion White, Julie Blacklock, Cheryl Wilson
	Convention Structure	Susanne Deiter and Ken Winston outlined the convention planning structure, committee roles, timelines, and expectations. Review of a working board. Be mindful of responsibilities and assignments, complete follow up, reach out if you have any questions.
	New Board Member Expectations	Ken Winston reviewed board member responsibilities, participation expectations, committee involvement, and leadership engagement. Shelby Davenport expressed eager and ready to be involved and current active involvement in IDD initiatives.
	Adjourn	The orientation concluded at 11:00 a.m.
Item	Board of Directors Meeting and Convention Planning	Discussion/Action
1	Call to Order	President Ken Winston called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
2	President's Report	Ken Winston formally welcomed new member Shelby Davenport, Susanne Dieter

		new President Elect, Thank you to Carey Amthor and last year's efforts and leadership, Kudos to board members work in the past year. Minutes were approved to date
3	Roll Call – Amber Jones	Present: Ken Winston, Susanne Deiter, Julie Blacklock, Cheryl Wilson, Amber Jones, Carey Amthor, Pat Holder -Convention Coordinator, Dione Lewis-Administrative Support Present virtually: Ramona Salomons, Toye Babb, Shelby Davenport, Linda Bailey, Margo Childs, Dion White Absent: Connie Cisneros, Colleen Heaton
4	Treasure's Report – Ken Winston	Ken reported for Connie . There is \$60,128 balance in our account. Consumer and Speaker stipends will be pursued for upcoming convention. Up to 7500 for Consumer stipend, and up to 7500 for Speaker stipend may be awarded, both will require \$750 in matching funds if awarded. Current budget reviewed
5	Membership Report – Amber Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carey contacted National AAIDD to inquire about an existing membership benefits video for outreach and “Save the Date” promotion. Gabriel Herald confirmed that National AAIDD does not currently have a video available. • Amber will follow up with Pat and connect with Susan Hammer regarding updates to language on the AAIDD Texas Chapter website. • A raffle prize was discussed to encourage in-person membership sign-ups, with a proposed amount of \$250.00 pending Treasurer review. Susanne confirmed she has a roll of tickets and materials available. • The IDD Provider Conference is in the planning stages (August 6–7 or August 10–11 in Austin, TX). Discussion included development of a “Save the Date” graphic to send out, YouTube video discussing the conference, and making membership information available at Julie's Twogether Counseling booth. • HHSC attendees were identified as potential contacts for membership engagement and outreach.
6	Committee Involvement and Expectations	Review of a working board. Be mindful of responsibilities and assignments, complete follow up, reach out if you have any questions.
7	2025 Annual Convention Discussion	<p>Ken and Pat reported the 2025 Convention was positive overall in education quality and location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 survey responses were received from 166 attendees, reflecting largely positive feedback. • Strengths noted: welcoming environment, quality presentations, notating lived experience, CEUs, streamlined QR code process. • Areas for improvement: breakfast food variety, nursing CEUs, larger presentation font, update to music therapy session, and improved accessibility. • Suggested future topics: caregiver support, sexuality, religion, progress in IDD services, and additional sessions by Shelby Davenport.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey feedback indicated interest in purchasing convention merchandise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group discussed options for merchandise sales, including: ○ Offering merchandise as an add-on during registration (pre-order option), ○ Purchasing a small initial batch for onsite sales, or ○ Combining pre-orders with limited onsite inventory. ○ Cheryl identified a contact to assist with printing and merchandise orders. • From the Provider perspective, requested session topics included increased offerings related to ICF, TxHmL, and HCS services.
8	2026 Convention Planning	<p>Educational Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 20–21 presentations are planned overall. • The option of offering 30-minute presentations with Q&A was reviewed; however, this format does not align with the CEU process requirements. • Carey is developing a historical AAIDD Texas Chapter PowerPoint in alignment with the strategic plan. • Dion spoke with Danette Castle regarding presenting IDD History; she confirmed availability. • Due to the length of the topic, the IDD History presentation will be scheduled as a 1.5-hour general session. <p>Official Name:</p> <p>“50 Years of Inclusion: Honoring The Past, Celebrating The Future”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibitor ideas to be sent to Pat. • HHSC, TMHP, and Contracts informational table proposed by Julie; follow-up with Callie at HHSC pending. • Local arrangements: pending. • Silent Auction: \$25 for four tickets or \$50 for two tickets; notify Susanne in advance of purchase. • Consumer stipends: Application to be submitted. • Together Counseling donating \$1,000. <p>Speaker Stipends</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad • Michelle Garcia • Barry Hamilton • Shelby proposed Travis Davis (self-advocate, proposed TED-style presentation; estimated \$1,800) • Julie proposed Ruby (Ruby Rainbow scholarship program) <p>Proposed support: hotel, mileage, and \$500 stipend.</p>

		<p>Convention Committee Meetings</p> <p>Zoom conference calls scheduled 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 12 • March 12 • April 10 (in-person Board meeting) • May 7
9	Old Business	<p>2027 Annual Convention</p> <p>The Omni Hotel – Corpus Christi is holding dates August 23–27, 2027. A vote was held; the majority approved moving forward with those dates.</p>
10	Board Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Wilson announced 2026 will be her final year on the Board. • Charlotte Kimmel was determined to have resigned due to non-attendance; vote confirmed the position open. • Colleen Heaton submitted resignation; vote accepted. • Both positions had two years remaining. <p>Nominations were presented for Member-at-Large positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramona Salomons • Toye Babb <p>Vote: Approved. Member-at-large positions filled by Ramona Salomons and Toye Babb.</p>
11	New Business	<p>Newsletter Assignments & Deadlines</p> <p>Reports due February 6, 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • President • Convention Committee • Legislative Update <p>Communications & Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding creation of a general AAIDD Texas Chapter email account using role-based titles rather than individual names. • Development of a YouTube channel discussed; Pat to follow up with Susan Madden. <p>Geographic Regions & Leadership</p> <p>Carey reviewed the AAIDD Geographic Regions Leadership Manual.</p>

		Dion discussed developing a mentorship program to engage new members and reviewing strategic bylaws, geographic region responsibilities, Assembly roles, and procedures for dissolving a chapter.
12	Next Board Meeting	April 10, 2026 – Integral Care
13	Meeting Adjourned	2:00pm